

## After a Visit to a Health Professional – Medications

Pre-Reading Discussion: Have you or a family member ever needed prescription medication? Where do you go to get the prescription filled? Prescription medications are also called drugs. What other substances are also called drugs?

### Reading Passage Section 12: After A Visit To A Health Professional - Medication/Drugs

To make good health decisions, you need to know when medications/drugs are safe and when they are dangerous.

After a visit, a health professional may tell you to take over-the-counter medication or prescribe medication to help with a certain problem. For example, you have high blood pressure and the prescription medication only treats high blood pressure.

A prescription is a special form the health professional fills out and signs. A health professional can also call a pharmacist to order a prescription over the phone. A pharmacist must have a prescription before selling you prescription medication.

If the doctor or dentist gives you a prescription, you must get the medication from a pharmacy. You can ask the pharmacist for **generic medication** instead of **brand-name medication**. Generic medications are cheaper than brand-name medications, but they are not always available. The pharmacist will help you get generic medication if it's available and your doctor agrees.



You should not share your prescription medication with anyone.

Over-the-counter and prescription medications are two **drug groups**. Other drug groups are **tobacco**, **alcohol**, and **illegal drugs**. Drug use can change how your body works. For example, if you take some medications, then you may become sleepy. Drug use can also change how a person acts. For example, you are taking some over-the-counter medication to help you lose weight, but the medication is also making you feel very sad. You feel sad all the time, even when you don't have a reason to feel sad.

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